



Virginia Information Technologies Agency



# Introducing Spatial Metadata and the Virginia Metadata Portal

Virginia Emergency Management Conference

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March 10, 2008





# Agenda

1. Introduction to Metadata
2. How Metadata applies to Emergency Services
  - Documenting your map resources
  - Finding new data
3. Using the VA Metadata Portal



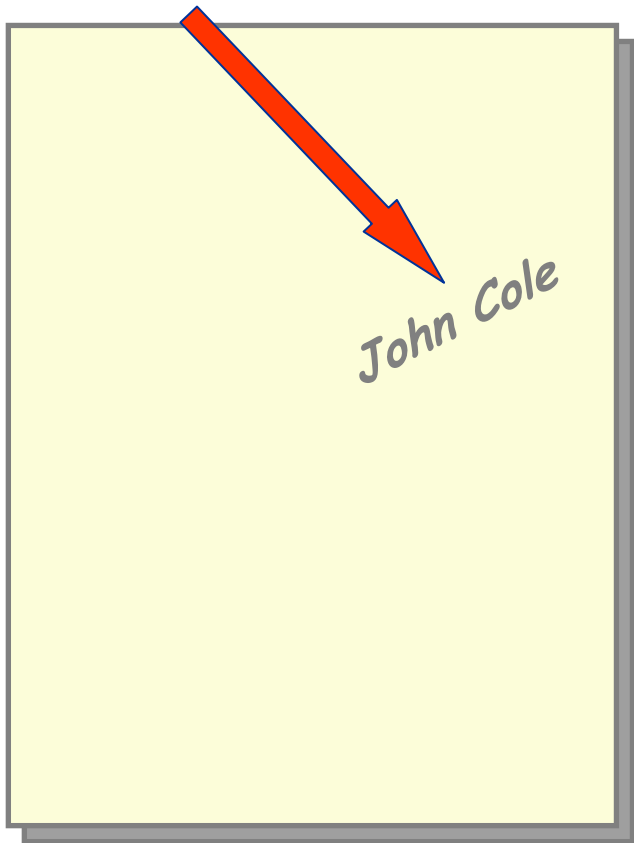
# Metadata: What's that!?

Simply put,  
metadata is  
information  
about your data.

Note: Metadata is not your actual spatial data...however, it serves as a reference for your spatial data

# Metadata: What's that!?

This is the metadata for this.



What's Missing?

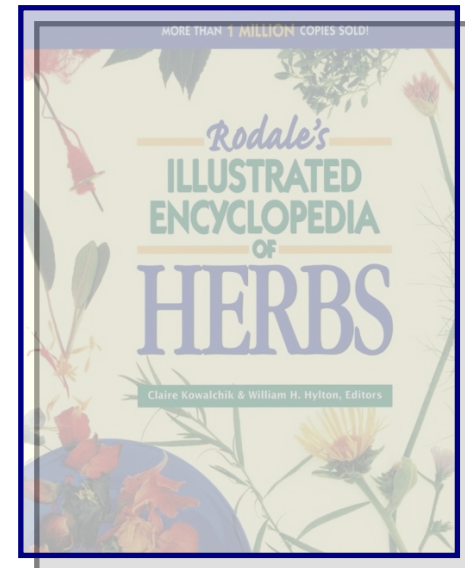
# Metadata: What's that!?

This is the metadata for this.



## Rodale's illustrated encyclopedia of herbs

ISBN: 087596964x (pbk.) : \$17.95  
 ISBN: 0878576991 : \$24.95  
 Title: Rodale's illustrated encyclopedia of herbs /  
 Claire Kowalchik & William H. Hylton, editors ;  
 writers, Anna Carr ... [et al.].  
 Publication info: Emmaus, Pa. : Rodale Press, c1987.  
 Physical descrip: vi, 545 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 24 cm.  
 General Note: Includes index.  
 Subject term: Herbs.  
 Subject term: Herbs--Utilization.  
 Subject term: Herb gardening.  
 Subject term: Herbs--History.  
 Subject term: Herbals.  
 Added author: Kowalchik, Claire.  
 Added author: Hylton, William H.  
 Added author: Carr, Anna, 1955-  
 Added author: Rodale Press.



What's Missing?

# Metadata: What's that!?

*Metadata describes...*

***Characteristics  
of the data***

**CONTENT  
CONDITION  
QUALITY**



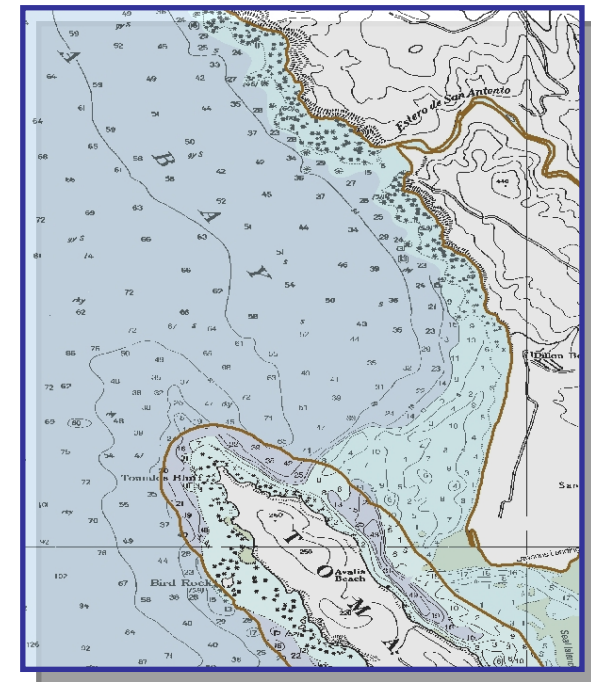
# Metadata: What's that!?

This is the metadata for this.



**Identification Information:**  
**Citation:**  
**Citation Information:**  
 Originator: NOAA Coastal Services Center  
 Publication Date: 200302  
 Title: Farallone Islands NMS Polyline File  
 Edition:  
 Geospatial Data Presentation Form: Map  
**Publication Information:**  
 Publication Place: Charleston, South Carolina  
 Publisher: NOAA Coastal Services Center  
**Other Citation Details:**  
 National Marine Sanctuary boundaries are defined both textually and through a listing of geographic coordinates. This information provided within the CFR was used to develop digital boundaries for the marine sanctuaries.  
 Online Linkage: [www.csc.noaa.gov](http://www.csc.noaa.gov)  
**Larger Work Citation:**  
**Citation Information:**  
 Originator: NOAA Coastal Services Center  
 Publication Date: 2002  
 Title: MPA Tools and Technical Assistance  
**Publication Information:**  
 Publication Place: Charleston, South Carolina  
 Publisher: NOAA Coastal Services Center  
 Online Linkage: [www.csc.noaa.gov](http://www.csc.noaa.gov)  
**Description:**  
**Abstract:**  
 This digital file boundary was created as part of the MPA Tools and Technical Assistance project at the NOAA Coastal Services Center. A fundamental aspect of the creation of national marine sanctuary boundaries was the analysis of existing boundary definitions found within the United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The digital boundary described here is a revision of that boundary, and is based on the above-mentioned analysis and on significant input from the individual marine sanctuaries.  
**Purpose:**  
 The creation of digital boundaries for National Marine Sanctuaries is part of the MPA Tools and Technical Assistance Project at the NOAA Coastal Services Center. A component of this project directs the Center to work in conjunction with the National Marine Sanctuary System towards the development of digital marine boundaries and accompanying legal descriptions for all 13 of the sanctuaries.

but only a  
small part  
of the  
metadata!





## What Metadata ISN'T!

Metadata is not “the spatial data”, but it is a vital component of the spatial data...

This means that you can look at, and evaluate, the metadata without having to see the actual data!



# What Metadata ISN'T!

- Metadata is not “sexy”



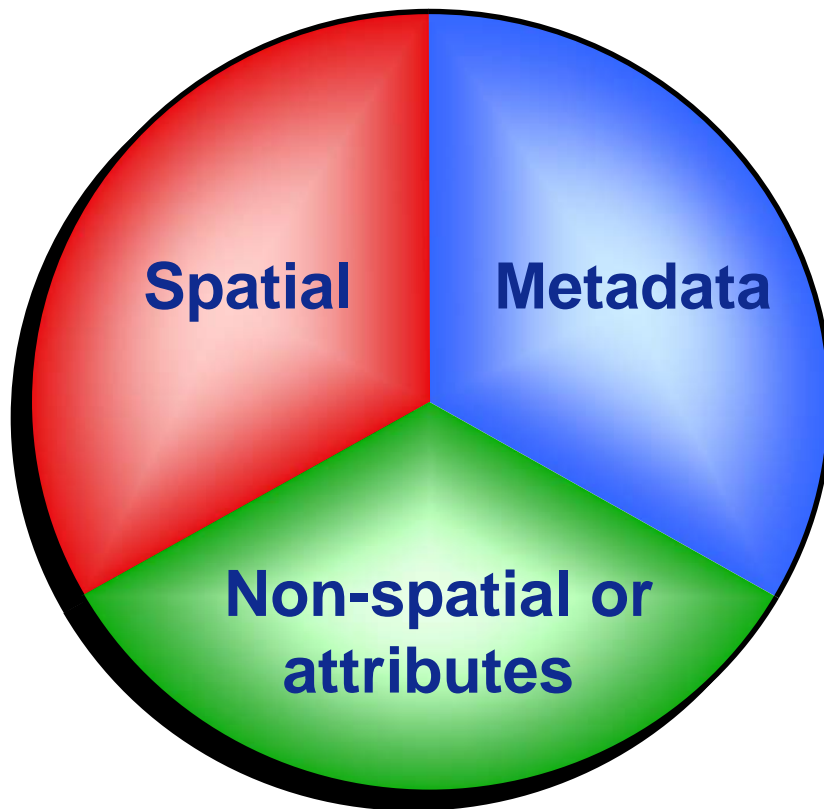
- But remember that there are many critical things in life that are not “sexy” (i.e. seat belts, life jackets, fire escapes, archived data, etc.)



## What Metadata ISN'T!

- Metadata probably has the wrong name and should be named something like “Your pants are on fire!” (to quote a good friend of mine).
- That would properly convey the importance of metadata!

# What Metadata ISN'T!



Because metadata provides vital information about a dataset, it should never be viewed or treated as a separate item.



# Metadata is IMPORTANT

## *Take Home Message*

**Metadata is  
a critical and  
integral component  
of any complete  
data set.**



# How Metadata applies to You

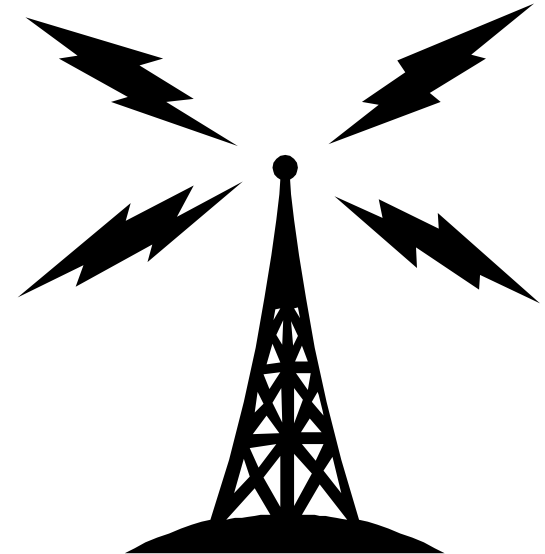
- Metadata has two important uses for you.
  - Data Documentation
  - Data Discovery

# Asset Protection (or protecting your *assets*)

- The most expensive part of any mapping system is the creation and maintenance of the data itself!



You wouldn't buy a complicated truck or an expensive radio system without getting all the documentation. Metadata is the documentation of your data and some of it is irreplaceable!





## Finding Needed Data

- “Data Discovery” means finding data when you need it.
  1. Metadata clearinghouses enable you to search for metadata records based on a customized search criteria.
  2. It is more efficient to conduct a search on metadata records...
  3. This can provide a valuable “initial searching filter” before downloading large spatial data sets



## Finding Needed Data

- The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse is at [GISData.Virginia.gov](http://GISData.Virginia.gov)
  1. It includes the metadata records about all the spatial data from all state agencies (eventually)!
  2. The metadata records are easy to find.
  3. From the metadata, you can determine if the data exists, if it meets your needs and how to obtain it.

So lets find some data!

<http://gisdata.virginia.gov>



## How to learn more!

- The Virginia Metadata Clearinghouse (portal) is available to everyone to find metadata records.
- All Virginia State Agencies, Local Governments and Virginia Universities are encouraged to post the metadata about any spatial data they are willing to share on the portal.
- We hold quarterly training on how to publish to the portal.



## Conclusion

# Questions?



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